

Listing of Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1-18. (Withdrawn).

19. (Previously Presented) A method for a Max Sessions Server (MSS) of a data communications network to keep a count of the sessions used at a given time by a group of users and to correct said count to compensate for abnormal disconnections of users belonging to said group, said method comprising:

assigning a unique identification value (UIV) to each port of a network access server (NAS) of the data communications network;

maintaining a master list having a plurality of entries, each entry containing at least (a) a UIV for a port associated with a logged in user and (b) respective group identification information for said logged in user;

periodically checking a NAS to determine if it has become non-operational; and

responding to the non-operational status of a NAS by removing all entries having UIVs for ports associated with the non-operational NAS from said master list and decrementing the count of the sessions used by the number of removed entries that correspond to the group.

20. (Original) A method in accordance with claim 19 wherein said periodically checking is performed by an Authentication, Authorization and Accounting Server (AAA) associated with the MSS.

21. (Original) A method in accordance with claim 19, further comprising:
transmitting a communication to another MSS on the data communications network to
inform it of the non-operational status of a NAS.

22. (Previously Presented) A method in accordance with claim 21, further
comprising:
receiving a communication from another MSS on the data communication network
advising of the non-operational status of a NAS; and
responding to said communication by removing all entries having UIVs associated with
the non-operational NAS from said master list and decrementing the count of the sessions used
by the number of removed entries that correspond to the group.

23. (Previously Presented) A method for a Resource Control Server (RCS) of a data
communications network to keep a count of a particular resource used at a given time by a group
of users and to correct said count to compensate for abnormal disconnections of users belonging
to said group, said method comprising:

assigning a unique identification value (UIV) to each port of a network access server
(NAS) of the data communications network;

maintaining a master list having a plurality of entries, each entry containing at least (a) a
UIV for a port associated with a logged in user and (b) respective group identification
information for said logged in user;

periodically checking a NAS to determine if it has become non-operational; and

responding to the non-operational status of a NAS by removing all entries having UIVs for ports associated with the non-operational NAS from said master list and decrementing the count of the sessions used by the number of removed entries that correspond to the group.

24. (Original) A method in accordance with claim 23 wherein said periodically checking is performed by an Authentication, Authorization and Accounting Server (AAA) associated with the MSS.

25. (Original) A method in accordance with claim 23, further comprising:
transmitting a communication to another MSS on the data communications network to inform it of the non-operational status of a NAS.

26. (Previously Presented) A method in accordance with claim 25, further comprising:

receiving a communication from another MSS on the data communication network advising of the non-operational status of a NAS; and

responding to said communication by removing all entries having UIVs associated with the non-operational NAS from said master list and decrementing the count of the particular resource used by the number of removed entries that correspond to the group.

27. (Previously Presented) A program storage device readable by a machine, tangibly embodying a program of instructions executable by the machine to perform a method for a Max Sessions Server (MSS) of a data communications network to keep a count of the sessions used at

a given time by a group of users and to correct said count to compensate for abnormal disconnections of users belonging to said group; said method comprising:

assigning a unique identification value (UIV) to each port of a network access server (NAS) of the data communications network;

maintaining a master list having a plurality of entries, each entry containing at least (a) a UIV for a port associated with a logged in user and (b) respective group identification information for said logged in user;

periodically checking a NAS to determine if it has become non-operational; and

responding to the non-operational status of a NAS by removing all entries having UIVs for ports associated with the non-operational NAS from said master list and decrementing the count of the sessions used by the number of removed entries that correspond to the group.

28. (Previously Presented) A program storage device readable by a machine, tangibly embodying a program of instruction executable by the machine to perform a method for a Resource Control Server (RCS) of a data communications network to keep a count of a particular resource used at a given time by a group of users and to correct said count to compensate for abnormal disconnections of users belonging to said group, said method comprising:

assigning a unique identification value (UIV) to each port of a network access server (NAS) of the data communications network;

maintaining a master list having a plurality of entries, each entry containing at least (a) a UIV for a port associated with a logged in user and (b) respective group identification information for said logged in user;

periodically checking a NAS to determine if it has become non-operational; and

responding to the non-operational status of a NAS by removing all entries having UIVs for ports associated with the non-operational NAS from said master list and decrementing the count of the sessions used by the number of removed entries that correspond to the group.

29-50. (Withdrawn)